

Message Text

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SUBJ: SOME ISRAELI VIEWS ON IMPLICATION OF UNEF ISSUE

AND ISRAEL UN MEMBERSHIP ON NEGOTIATIONS

1. JUSTICE MINISTER ZADOK IN BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH US JULY 17, SAID THAT GOI DECISION ON INTERIM AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED "ON ITS MERITS," DESPITE FAHMI LETTER RE UNEF MANDATE. HE ADDED THAT, IN HIS JUDGEMENT, EGYPTIANS WERE TRYING TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENT AT EARLY DATE, BUT WERE NOT ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE NEGOTIATING PROCESS ITSELF.

2. USUALLY INFORMED ISRAELI JOURNALISTS HAVE TOLD US THAT GOI INTENDED TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS DESPITE EGYPTIAN THREAT RE MANDATE RENEWAL. THEY HAVE ADDED, HOWEVER, IDEA THAT GOI MIGHT POSSIBLY HOLD UP SIGNING OF AGREEMENT UNTIL MID-SEPTEMBER PENDING OUTCOME OF ARAB EFFORTS TO SUSPEND ISRAEL FROM UNGA OR CONDITION ITS IMPLEMENTATION ON DEVELOPMENTS AT UNGA. THESE SOURCES CLAIMED THAT IF ISRAEL IS NOT RECOGNIZED AS LEGITIMATE MEMBER OF UN, THERE IS NO FOUNDATION FOR ISRAELI/ UNEF

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RELATIONSHIP, WHICH IS VIEWED AS CRITICAL ELEMENT IN STABILITY OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. ANOTHER POINT MADE WAS THAT ISRAEL'S SUSPENSION, PARTICULARLY IF SUPPORTED BY EGYPT, ITSELF WOULD EXPRESS SUCH HOSTILITY TO ISRAEL AS TO UNDERMINE BASIS FOR

IMPLEMENTING NEW AGREEMENT.

3. MAARIV POLITICAL COMMENTATOR HARIF, IN HIS REGULAR WEEKEND COLUMN TODAY, ALSO EXPRESSES VIEW THAT EGYPTIAN STAND ON UNEF PROBABLY WILL NOT BLOCK ACHIEVEMENT OF INTERIM AGREEMENT. HARIF INTERPRETS PRIME MINISTER'S JULY 16 KNESSET SPEECH (FBIS TEL AVIV 170730Z JUL 75) AND HIS DEBRIEFING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY COMMITTEE THIS WEEK, AS STRONG INDICATIONS THAT RABIN BELIEVES U.S. -ISRAEL CONSULTATIONS ARE VIRTUALLY COMPLETED. HE CITES TWO ELEMENTS BEHIND THIS ASSUMPTION: THAT RABIN IS DETERMINED TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH USG AND SECONDLY HE BELIEVES WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN NEGOTIATIONS IS CLOSE TO " THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS." MOREOVER, HARIF CLAIMS, LATEST ISRAELI PROPOSALS ENJOY BACKING OF "ENTIRE NEGOTIATION TEAM" INCLUDING PERES. LINKING THIS ASSESSMENT OF U.S./ISRAELI ASPECT TO AGREEMENT TO EGYPTIAN STAND, HARIF HARIF SUGGESTS THAT EGYPT IS ALLOWING ITSELF " TO FLEX ITS MUSCLES" OVER UNEF KNOWING THAT U.S. AT THIS STAGE WILL NOT. EASILY ALLOW NEGOTIATIONS TO COLLAPSE. IN WARNING NOTE. HOWEVER, HARIF ADDS THAT FINAL EGYPTIAN POSITION ON INTERIM AGREEMENT IS STILL IN DOUBT.
TOON

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